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Appl. No.: 10/803,768
Reply to Office action of July 5, 2006

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1(Withdrawn). A method of making a plastic component having a sealing feature, comprising:

forming a subassembly of an elastomeric seal member secured to a support element;
disposing the subassembly in a mold;
forming plastic material in the mold and connecting plastic material to the support element to thereby form the plastic component; and
removing the finished plastic component from the mold complete with the support element and seal attached.

2(Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the plastic material is injected onto the support element, which is made as a metal component.

3(Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the connection between the support element and the plastic component is achieved by chemical bonding.

4(Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the connection between the support element and the plastic component is achieved by mechanical joining.

5(Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the plastic component is made as a cylinder head cover with legs, where the support element is provided in the free end areas of the legs.

6(Withdrawn). The method of claim 1, including tempering the elastomeric seal at the time it is secured to the support element.

7(Previously Amended). A plastic component assembly, comprising:
an elastomeric seal member;
a metallic support element to which the seal member is secured; and
a plastic component formed in-place against and attached to the metallic support element.

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8(Previously Amended). The assembly of claim 7, wherein the support element is shaped with a profile, and is provided with pass-through openings to provide a mechanical connection between legs of the plastic component and the support element.

9(Cancelled).

10(Previously Amended). The assembly of claim 8, wherein the plastic component comprises a cylinder head cover with legs where the support element is located at end areas of the legs.

11(Previously Amended). The assembly of claim 7, wherein the support element has upstanding opposite legs connected by a base to define a U-shaped internal profile with pass-through openings in at least one of the legs, the plastic component being attached only to the internal profile and extending into the pass-through openings to interlock the plastic component to the support element.

12(Previously Amended). The assembly of claim 8, wherein the pass-through openings are provided in the area of the parts of the support element that are oriented toward the associated legs of the cylinder head cover.

13(Previously Presented). The assembly of claim 8 wherein the plastic component is formed over opposite sides of a portion of the metallic support element and through the pass-through openings to interlock the plastic component to the metallic support.

14(Previously Presented). A cylinder head cover assembly for an internal combustion engine, comprising:

- a generally rigid metallic support element having upper and lower surfaces;
- an elastomeric seal attached to said lower surface of the support element; and
- a plastic cylinder head cover having a peripheral flange molded to said upper surface of the support element, said support element providing stiffness to the assembly while locating said seal for sealing engagement with the engine.

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15(Previously Presented). The assembly of claim 14 wherein said support element has a leg extending upwardly from said upper surface, said leg being molded into said plastic cylinder head cover.

16(Previously Presented). The assembly of claim 15 wherein said leg has a pass-through opening, plastic material of said cylinder head being molded over opposite sides of said leg and through said pass-through opening to mechanically lock the support element to the cylinder head cover.